

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture of *Bifidobacterium longum* FERM BP-7787 having the following mycological characteristics:

~~(1) fermentative characteristics as to make a milk base medium to pH 4.6 or lower;~~

~~(2) (1) survival rate of 50% or higher, after attaining pH 4.4 to 4.6 in a milk base medium, quenching and storing at 10°C for two weeks; and~~

~~(3) (2) gastric juice tolerance as giving a survival rate of 10% or higher in the case of storing in artificial gastric juice of pH 3.0 at 37°C for two hours.~~

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) ~~3. A powder~~ **Powder** comprising a biologically pure culture of *Bifidobacterium longum* FERM BP-7787 of claim 1 or 2 having the following mycological characteristics:

(1) survival rate of 50% or higher, after attaining pH 4.4 to 4.6 in a milk base medium, and storing at 10°C for two weeks; and

(2) survival rate of 10% or higher in the case of storing in artificial gastric juice of pH 3.0 at 37°C for two hours.

4. (Currently amended) A food ~~Foods~~ and or beverage[s] comprising a biologically pure culture of *Bifidobacterium longum* FERM BP-7877 of claim 1 or 2 having the following mycological characteristics:

(1) survival rate of 50% or higher, after attaining pH 4.4 to 4.6 in a milk base medium, and storing at 10°C for two weeks; and

(2) survival rate of 10% or higher in the case of storing in artificial gastric juice of pH 3.0 at 37°C for two hours.